



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
MITSUHIRO ITO, et al.) Group Art Unit: 2852
:)
Application No.: 10/609,469)
:)
Filed: July 1, 2003)
:)
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS) October 1, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,835,818
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,266,151
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,496,660
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,539,184
- (5) Japan 8-320642
- (6) Japan 10-39691
- (7) Japan 2001-88370
- (8) Japan 2001-88406
- (9) Japan 2001-192132
- (10) Japan 2002-46876
- (11) Japan 2002-91102

Reference (11) is discussed in the specification at page 5, lines 18 to 24, reference (5) is discussed in the specification at page 7, lines 2 to 12, references (7) to (10) are discussed in the specification at page 9, line 24, to page 10, line 9, and reference (6) is discussed in the specification at page 33, line 20, to page 34, line 2. These references might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed Japanese documents has been located and is enclosed. In addition, reference (1) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to reference (6), reference (2) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to references (7) and (8), and reference (3) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to reference (10).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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FORM PTO 1449 (modified)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 01272.020591	APPLICATION NO. 10/609,469				
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		APPLICANT MITSUHIRO ITO, et al.					
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		FILING DATE July 1, 2003	GROUP 2852				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,835,818	11/10/98	N. Hoshika, et al.	399	26	
		6,266,151	7/24/01	T. Tachibana, et al.	358	1.4	
		6,496,660	12/17/02	A. Takahashi, et al.	399	16	
		6,539,184	3/25/03	M. Shimura, et al.	399	50	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		8-320642	12/3/96	Japan			Abstract
		10-39691	2/13/98	Japan			Abstract
		2001-88370	4/3/01	Japan			Abstract
		2001-88406	4/3/01	Japan			Abstract
		2001-192132	7/17/01	Japan			Abstract
		2002-46876	2/12/02	Japan			Abstract
		2002-91102	3/27/02	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

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